

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6698

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINS, SREF, SU, LY, ET

SUBJ: RETURN OF ANSAR TO SUDAN

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 866 (NOTAL) (B) KHARTOUM 836

SUMMARY: SUDAN EFFORTS TO REPATRIATE ARMED ANSAR REBELS FROM LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA ARE MEETING WITH MIXED RESULTS. WELL INFORMED OFFICIAL BELIEVES SOME SUCCESS WILL BE ACHIEVED IN RETURNING ANSAR FROM LIBYA BUT SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA IS ALMOST HOPELESS FROM SUDAN'S POINT OF VIEW. ETHIOPIAN SITUATION COMPLICATED BY EPMG DEMANDS THAT ERITREAN/ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES BE RETURNED WHICH SUDANGOV CAN NOT AGREE TO. END SUMMARY

1. DURING CONVERSATION MARCH 2 DCM DISCUSSED SUDANGOV EFFORTS TO REPATRIATE ARMED ANSAR DISSIDENTS PRESENTLY IN LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA WITH IZZ AL-DIN SAYED WHO HAS
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BEEEN CHAIRMAN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND MEMBER SSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND WHO IS WELL INFORMED REGARDING SUDANSES DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES. SAYED CONFIRMED THAT A CENTRAL ELEMENT IN SUDAN'S RECENT EFFORTS IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA WAS HOPE THAT A CENTRAL ELEMENT IN SUDAN'S RECENT EFFORTS IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH LIBYA

AND ETHIOPIA WAS HOPE THAT IMPROVED RELATIONS WOULD FACILITATE REPATRIATION OF ANSAR. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, HE DESCRIBES THIS TASK AS WELL AS INTEGRATION OF ANSAR REBELS INTO NORMAL LIFE IN SUDAN AS MOST IMPORTANT REMAINING ASPECT OF NIMEIRI'S RECONCILIATION WITH OPPOSITION TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

2. SAYED INDICATED THERE IS SOME HOPE THAT THIS EFFORT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL WITH RESPECT TO LIBYA. SUDANESE REMAIN VERY WARY OF QADDAFI'S INTENTIONS, AND THEY ARE WATCHING CLOSELY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAD RECONCILIATION AGREEMENT WITH ITS OWN REBELS. FYI: SAYED BELIEVES THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT INDICATES LIBYA IMPLEMENTING TERMS OF AGREEMENT. END FYI. SAYED EXPECTS, PERHAPS IN NEAR FUTURE, QADDAFI WILL ONCE AGAIN BECOME OVERTLY ANTAGONISTIC TO SUDAN. THEREFORE, SAYED SAID, HE IS ADVISING NIMEIRI TO MOVE QUICKLY TO REPATRIATE AS MANY ANSAR AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THIS DEVELOPMENT OCCURS.

3. OUTLOOK FOR SUCCESSFUL REPATRIATION OF ANSAR IN ETHIOPIA IS ALMOST HOPELESS. ETHIOPIANS WILL NOT RPT NOT ALLOW REPATRIATION OF SUDANESE ANSAR WITH CONCOMITANT RETURN OF ERITREAN/ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES. SAYED SAID TO RETURN THESE REFUGEES WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO TURNING THEM OVER TO THEIR EXECUTIONERS. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE EITHER ON POLITICAL OR HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS FOR SUDANESE TO EXCHANGE ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES FOR ANSAR.

4. COMMENT: THUS ACCORDING TO SAYED SUDAN'S FUNDAMENTAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SECURITY PROBLEM WITH ETHIOPIA WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST. EVEN LIBYA PRESENT THAW IS NOT EXPECTED TO LAST LONG. SAYED BELIEVES, AS DO MOST SUDANESE LEADERS, THAT SOVIETS WILL INTERFERE WITH ANY GENUINE RAPPROCHEMENT SUDANESE MAY BE ABLE TO WORK OUT WITH EITHER LIBYA OR ETHIOPIA. THUS AS INDICATED REF B SUDANESE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ITS TWO HOSTILE NEIGHBORS ARE LIKELY TO BE LITTLE MORE THAN TEMPORARY, TACTICAL MEASURES WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO ALLOW EXPEDITIOUS REPATRIATION OF ANSAR REBELS. OVER LONG TERM SUDANESE PRESENTLY ARE PESSIMISTIC THAT SIGNIFICANT FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE AS LONG AS QADDAFI AND MENGISTU ARE IN POWER AND ARE SUPPORTED BY SOVIET UNION. BERGUS

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